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Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SIG-03 HA-05
TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
INRE-00 /082 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:TNILES:GK
APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN
IO/UNP:RLBARRY
L:SBOND
AF/S:DPETERSEN
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O P 270030Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107337

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: POSSIBLE CONTACT GROUP REPLY TO SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

REF: A) USUN 1667; B) CAPETOWN 0828; C)CAPETOWN 0833

1. WE AGREE THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED AT THIS POINT IN GOING BACK TO SAG FOR FORMAL DISCUSSION OF THEIR STATEMENT ON ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT BOTH FOR THE RECORD
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AND TO PROTECT OUR LEGAL POSITION, THE CONTACT GROUP SHOULD GO BACK TO THE SAG WITH A BRIEF STATEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOW-ING LINES:

A) WE WERE NATURALLY VERY GRATIFIED BY YOUR DECISION TO ACCEPT THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL IN THE FORM IN WHICH WE SUBMITTED IT TO YOU ON MARCH 30. THE PROPOSAL SPEAKS FOR

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ITSELF AND WE SEE NO NEED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THIS POINT;

B) AS FAR AS THE CLARIFICATION WHICH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR PASSED ON TO YOU ON APRIL 24, WE WOULD CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE REMARKS MADE BY THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE IN HIS STATEMENT AT THE APRIL 26 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, REITERATING THE CLARIFICATION AS FOLLOWS. (A BRIEF QUOTATION FROM THE FRG SPEECH COULD BE ADDED AT THIS POINT).

2. THE DEPARTMENT IS VERY CONCERNED OVER THE REPORT IN REF B OF LARGE-SCALE DETENTIONS IN NAMIBIA OF TOP INTERNAL SWAPO REPRESENTATIVES UNDER THE NEW POWERS ASSUMED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONTACT GROUP SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THIS IS HARDLY THE SORT OF BEHAVIOR CALCULATED TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN THE GENUINENESS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL OR TO ENCOURAGE SWAPO TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. MOREOVER, SAG SHOULD AVOID ANY ACTION INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROPOSAL AND ITS SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION.

3. WITH REGARD TO CAPETOWN'S SUGGESTION (REF C), CONTACT GROUP POSITION ON THE "ASSURANCES" ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL IS NOW ON PUBLIC RECORD THROUGH APRIL 26 STATEMENT BY FRG REPRESENTATIVE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH SAG ON STATEMENT (AS CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPOSED PARA 6 REF C) FURTHER EXPLAINING SAG POSITION. THIS COULD INVOLVE US IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG OF WITHDRAWAL ISSUE WHICH WE DO NOT BELIEVE WOULD ADVANCE MATTERS AND COULD RESULT IN ADDITIONAL SAG STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD BE LESS HELPFUL THAN ITS APRIL 24 ANNOUNCEMENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE107337
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TNILES:GK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780179-0521
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978049/aaaaahdw.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 1667, 78 CAPE TOWN 828, 78 CAPE TOWN 833
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3066633
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: POSSIBLE CONTACT GROUP REPLY TO SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c03eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014